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Letter dated 6 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, under the presidency of Peru, the Security Council plans to hold an open debate on youth, peace and security on 23 April 2018.

In this regard, Peru has prepared the attached concept note (see annex). I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gustavo **Meza-Cuadra**
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Permanent Representative of Peru
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 6 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council open debate on youth, peace and security, to be held on 23 April 2018

I. Introduction

1. Today's generation of young people is the largest the world has ever known, and young people often represent the majority of the population in countries affected by armed conflict. Far from being homogeneous, youth are affected by conflict and peace in countless ways. Young people are often active in contributing to the peace and security of their communities and societies, but their work needs greater recognition and leverage to contribute to building and sustaining peace.

2. The aim of this open debate is to build on the landmark Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) and analyse the significant and positive contribution of youth in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, as well as the important role youth can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as a key aspect of the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts, focusing particularly on elements identified in the progress study on youth and peace and security (A/72/761-S/2018/86), and pursuant to resolution 2250 (2015).

3. This meeting will provide the opportunity to discuss the findings and recommendations of the progress study and exchange views on the way forward from Member States to implementing the youth, peace and security agenda.

II. Background

4. On 9 December 2015, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security. The resolution is the first one fully dedicated to recognizing the important and positive role that young women and men play in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security. By its resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security, the Council asks Member States and the United Nations to create space for the strong and positive contribution that youth can bring to these crucial processes. Over the past two years, work has been done by numerous partners, including Member States, United Nations entities, civil society organizations and, very importantly, young people themselves to translate the resolution into concrete steps and actions to implement it.

5. In its resolution 2250 (2015), the Council requested the Secretary-General to carry out a progress study on the youth's positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution, in order to recommend effective responses at the local, national, regional and international levels.

6. An independent lead author, Graeme Simpson (South Africa), was appointed by the former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to develop an independent study to be presented to the Security Council. Mr. Simpson worked with the support of an advisory group consisting of 21 independent experts in the field of youth, peace and security, who provided guidance and quality assurance. The process of developing the study was supported by a joint secretariat established by the United Nations Population Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office, and involved numerous partners from United Nations entities and civil society.

III. Scope of the open debate on youth, peace and security

7. The progress study on youth and peace and security (A/72/761-S/2018/86) addresses how young women and men are involved in peacebuilding practices on the ground, proposing, in this regard, concrete operational directions for the peace and security community to work with young people in new and innovative ways. The study also contributes to sustaining peace, emphasizing the role of young people in conflict prevention, as a key element of resolution 2250 (2015) and the youth, peace and security agenda. In addition it helps to understand the concept of prevention while creating a platform for young people to share their voices and lead their communities to build sustainable peace.

8. Resolution 2250 (2015) and the progress study are premised on the fact that, thus far, Governments and the multilateral system have been challenged in effectively accessing, working with and fully including young people in peace and security contexts. Therefore, the progress study on youth and peace and security is seeking to address this critical gap and to help to overturn the negative stereotypes that have been cast upon young people.

9. The progress study also provides a long-term and forward-looking strategy for the implementation of resolution 2250 (2015), guidance and a set of recommendations for Member States and other relevant actors to strengthen the design of policies and programmes to enhance the positive impact of young people. It shows young people's positive role in sustaining peace and defines critical issues and areas of interventions for the youth, peace and security agenda.

IV. Guiding questions

10. We encourage interventions that focus on the following questions:

(a) What concrete steps and promising practices have been taken by Member States since the adoption of resolution 2250 (2015)?

(b) How have Member States created meaningful, inclusive and safe spaces for youth to be involved in and contribute to peace and security policy and programming?

(c) What role has resolution 2250 (2015) played in how Governments address the question of meaningful inclusion of youth, from peace processes to access to decision-making? What good practices and lessons learned exist regarding how the resolution has been translated into concrete action?

(d) What factors prevent or inhibit the involvement of young women and men in contributing to security and building peace?

(e) What factors could promote and support young people's active involvement in building peace, preventing violence and contributing to positive social cohesion in their communities, societies and institutions?

(f) What are the financial and political commitments given by Governments to young people in line with an effective implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda?

(g) How can Member States continue to support the efforts of the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the progress study?

(h) How have Member States engaged with the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, particularly the Peacebuilding Commission, in advancing the

implementation of resolution 2250 (2015)? What lessons learned and best practices exist?

(i) What further data and learnings on the positive contribution by young women and men in the field of peace and security would assist Member States in implementing resolution 2250 (2015)?

V. Format and briefers

11. The open debate will be held on Monday, 23 April 2018, at 10 a.m. in the Security Council Chamber. It will be chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru, Néstor Popolizio.

12. The following speakers will brief the Security Council:

The Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake

The lead author of the progress study on youth and peace and security, Graeme Simpson

A member of the Advisory Council of the World Young Women's Christian Association and member of the Board of the FRIDA Young Feminist Fund, Sophia Pierre-Antoine

A representative of civil society (to be confirmed)

VI. Expected results

13. A resolution is expected to be adopted.